

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 95:6-7, 1-4**

O come, let us worship and / bow down;*
let us kneel before the Lord our / Maker.
For He is our God; and we are the people of his / pasture,*
and the sheep / of His hand.
Oh come, let us sing / to the Lord!*
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our sal- / vation.
Let us come before His presence with thanks- / giving;*
let us shout joyfully to / Him with psalms.
For the Lord is the / great God,*
and the great King a- / bove all gods.
In His hand are the deep places / of the earth;*
the heights of the hills are His / also.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **1 Thessalonians 4:13**

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Stir up, we implore You, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
In the Midst of Earthly Life

TLH 590, LSB 755
Martin Luther



1. In the midst of earthly life
Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife
Lest the Foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only.
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

3. In the midst of utter woe
All our sins oppress us,
Where shall we for refuge go,
Where for grace to bless us?
To Thee, Lord Jesus, only.
Thy precious blood was shed to win
Full atonement for our sin.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!



“The Dormition of Believers”

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the
dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
the right hand of God, the Father
Almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
Christian church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in
heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
heavenly Father, through Jesus
Christ, Your dear Son, that You
have kept me this night from all
harm and danger; and I pray that
You would keep me this day also
from sin and every evil, that all my
doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend
myself, my body and soul, and all
things. Let Your holy angel be with
me, that the evil foe may have no
power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
heavenly Father, through Jesus
Christ, Your dear Son, that You
have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive
me all my sins where I have done
wrong, and graciously keep me this
night. For into Your hands, I
commend myself, my body and
soul, and all things. Let Your holy
angel be with me, that the evil foe
may have no power over me. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Dormition of Believers**

There are all kinds of strange ideas about death and dying these days. Either people are said to escape their bodies to begin their true 'spiritual' existence, or they're mourned as irrevocably lost forever. Only the Christians use the terms "sleep" and "rest" to describe the blessed dead. That's because of our doctrine of the resurrection. Just as Jesus was bodily raised from the dead after His death and burial, so also will our bodies be raised from the places where they rest to live in immortality and perfection. Our own eyes will see Jesus. Our own lips will sing His praises eternally. What great, tangible hope Christ gives to those that sleep!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:18-26 "Faith Seeks and Finds Jesus"**

Faith seeks Jesus. See how Jairus' faith sought Jesus in his daughter's hour of death. Though his world was shaken with grief, his heart was full of trust in the promise that Jesus saves. In the same way, the woman's trust in the Lord's salvation made her bold to touch the fringe of His garment. Faith seeks and finds. Both Jairus' and the woman's faith obtained their object. In these last days, the Spirit turns our hearts toward the Lord. We don't see the outcome of what the Lord has promised. Not yet. But with faith comes the certainty that before long, we will. Sins will no longer plague us. Death will be forgotten. Every tear will be wiped away. We will always be with Jesus. *Strengthen my faith in Your Son, heavenly Father. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 11:1-33 "Do Not Become Proud, but Fear"**

This chapter explores God's rejection of the Jews and what that means for their future. First, we learn that through their rejection of Christ, "salvation has come to the Gentiles." The Apostles were sent to the ends of the earth, not to the Jews, to graft the wild branches into the root of God's people through the promises of the Gospel. Does that mean that God has cast off Abraham's children forever? By no means. The Gentile inclusion by grace and faith ought to make Israel jealous, so they would repent of unbelief and find mercy through faith in Jesus Christ. Instead of being proud and setting ourselves above them, we should pray for their repentance in humility, faith, and fear. *Grant me humble joy for being included in Your people. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 14:1-27 "How the Oppressor Has Ceased!"**

Like the national leaders of our day, Babylon's princes were pretty full of themselves. Nebuchadnezzar built an image (most likely looking a lot like himself) for all the nations to worship on pain of death (Daniel 3). Belshazzar thought it was a good idea to use the temple's vessels for a drunken feast (Daniel 5). The empire the world once considered mighty and lasting the Lord ended in an instant. Seeing the church's enemies humbled gives God's people comfort. It reminds us that Christ reigns over all things with divine authority. Just as the Lord restored Judah, so will He restore us to our own heavenly country on the Last Day through the resurrection. *Grant me courage when the world rages against You, O Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **2 Thess. 3:1-18 "The Sin of Idleness?"**

The ESV translates ἀτάκτως as idleness in vs. 6, though the old King James might have a better translation of "disorderly." The disorderly man conducts his life apart from the apostolic tradition, that is, the saving preaching of law and gospel. Perhaps he is given to the idolatry of the gentiles or even to the legal obsession of the Jews. Either way he is indeed "idle" in the sight of God, neither glorifying Him through his faithful confession nor blessing his neighbors through good works. Our steps, on the other hand, have been ordered and guided by God's Word. Imitating the apostles, we set our feet on a way that builds up the body of Christ instead of withering it from the inside out. *Grant me strength and guidance to do Your will. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 5:17-29 "Passing from Death to Life"**

The Father and the Son never work at cross purposes, but their wills are always united toward creation. If the Father desires to raise the dead, then the Son desires to raise the dead. If the Father has this authority, so it must also be true of the Son. This is what is meant by saying that the Son is "begotten of the Father, not made." He is true God, one with the Father according to essence, with the authority to give life to the dead! This is what He gives you today according to His Word and faith. "Whoever hears my Word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." *I praise You, O Christ, for the life You have given me through faith in Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 5:1-10 "Desire for Eternal, Heavenly Life"**

Don't get confused by Paul's language here. Poor interpretations of this text that indicate that we should not anticipate a resurrection of our remains buried in the earth, but we should expect an ethereal body in heaven distinct from contaminated earthly things. God forbid we should fall into this gnostic trap. The Apostle is speaking about the temporary and passing nature of this life by comparing it to a tent. However a more permanent existence awaits us by grace and we begin to experience it in heaven after our death, freedom from sin and corruption. What begins when our soul is freed from corruption is completed on the great day of resurrection. *Grant me grace to walk by faith, dear Jesus, as we eagerly await Your coming. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 36 "Sin from Man, Love from the Lord"**

Men's hearts are treacherous things. With his heart Adam broke faith with God to trust in the serpent's lie. This damning corruption lingers in his children with corrupt desires to trespass God's will and to think that keeping our misdeeds hidden from mortal eyes is enough for our justification. Men beget evil in the image of Adam, but God has become man in the person of Christ to redeem our hearts from unbelieving corruption to faithful life. God has acted. He has purchased and won us with the sacrificed blood of His Son. This is the steadfast love David praises. We know the same love from the same God through hearing the preaching of the Gospel. *Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, O Lord. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Pastor A. Brian Flamme**. He is pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Roswell, NM. He is married to a beautiful wife, Jennifer, and has three boys, Jason, Noah, and Caleb. God be praised!